श्री शरद पवार: जब बिल सदन के सामने डिसकशन के लिए आएगा, तब ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: तब डिसकस कीजिएगा।

श्री शरद पवार: तब लाभ हो जाएगा, इसमें दुरुस्त करने की हमारी तैयारी रहेगी। आज एक्सचेंज के लिए नेटवर्क तैयार करने में हम लगे हुए हैं, जिसमें कई राज्यों में काम हुआ है। इसमें आठ राज्य ऐसे हैं-महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिमी बंगाल, और केरल में एक दूसरी योजना शुरू की है, जिसका नाम है ''अक्षय केंद्र''। तो केरल में 350 जगहों पर वे ''अक्षय केंद्र'' भी लगाए गए हैं, कि इसका लाभ किसानों को मिलना चाहिए। हम चाहते हैं कि इस देश की सभी मंडियों में, प्राइवेट मंडियों में, दोनों जगहों पर इसकी सुविधा उपलब्ध होनी चाहिए, जिसका लाभ किसानों को मिलेगा।

Sea food parks in coastal areas

*182. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop sea food parks in coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether these parks are very popular the world over; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to have joint venture with foreign firms for development of such parks and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, with a view to make available infrastructural facilities to processing units, under its plan schemes, provides financial assistance @ 25% of project cost in general areas and @ 33.33% of project cost in difficult areas, subject to maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore, for provision of common facilities if Food Parks such as power supply, water supply, cold storage, warehousing facilities, effluent treatment plant, food testing analytical laboratories, common processing facilities etc. The assistance is available to all implementing agencies including State Government undertakings, cooperatives, private entities who come forward with viable proposals. The Food Parks may be based on raw

material/commodities as available in the area including sea food. The Government does not set up Food Parks on its own. The Ministry has approved 51 Food Parks for financial assistance in the country, out of which 4 Food Parks, located in costal States, are meant for providing infrastructure for fish processing. The implementing agencies can develop such Parks in joint venture with foreign firms as per extant norms of the Government regarding foreign investment in the country.

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has received any proposal for developing sea food parks in the coastal areas of Gujarat. If so, what are the details of such proposals, and, what is the action taken by the Central Government?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, we have not received any proposal to develop sea food parks from the State Government concerned. There is no sea food park as such. They can utilise the same parks in the coastal areas to process and to create a hub for the sea food activities. So, I can say that there is no specific proposal as such.

SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, it is stated that the Ministry has approved 51 food parks for financial assistance in the country, out of which four food parks located in coastal States are meant for fish processing. Sir, only four food parks have been approved in the coastal areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would encourage and approve more sea food parks in coastal States, particularly, in the State of Gujarat.

Sir, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what will be the impact of the announcement of General Budget on the food processing industry.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, I know that our coastal area is round about 8,000 kilometres. Sir, this is very rich area and we will love to promote if any proposal comes up from the coastal area side or the concerned State. The Central Government does not set up food parks on its own, and, therefore, we need proposals from the States or the private entrepreneurs. This is our target area and we are developing this. We are trying to motivate people to come forward. So far as the impact of the Budget is concerned, I can say that—the hon. Member is also from Gujarat—AMUL has reduced the price of ice cream ranging from 10 to 11 per cent.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, he has already put the question. But I will put another question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you have already got the answer, let some other Member ask ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, he has asked one part and the hon. Minister has answered that. I would like to ask the second part. Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether any food park has been taken up as a joint venture with any foreign firm. If 'yes', in which State?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, it has still not been taken up. We are allowing hundred per cent FDI in the food processing sector. We are trying to encourage any private entrepreneur, if they wish to build link with it, we will welcome them.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I would request the hon. Minister to explain it. Is there any special criterion laid down for this? Because the coastal areas differ in their food content in so many respects. We had earlier discussed the possibilities of taking certain food-processing industries to the coastal areas covering Prakasam and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh. Can the hon. Minister throw some light on this? What are the criteria for selection of areas? What is the subsidy given to specific industry? Basically, this will help the fisherman to earn a decent livelihood.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, as I said, for the food park, we give Rs. four crore as subsidy grant, and it is the State Government or the private party which proposes it. So, it is up to them where they want to set it up. So far, the condition required is a maximum of 30 acres of land; and we reduce it to 20 acres in some cases according to the area. In the plain area or the hilly area, for food park, the Government gives Rs. four crore. We are trying to work out a new proposal, with the Planning Commission and it is still under process, to increase it, so that it can become much more effective. And on that line in coastal areas, if there is any proposal with the hon. Member—because I want that every parliamentary constituency must have one food-processing unit or a food park—we are ready to take it up.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there is a large potential available in India for food-processing industry. Sir, a lot of technology upgradation has taken place in the field of food-processing industry. Sir, take the case of China, Taiwan, and the Phillippines.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question, please.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am coming to the question. These countries have the potential for food processing, and they are exporting seafood in a large way in the open international market. India is not able to compete with them. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether with the coordination of the Agriculture Ministry, because the prawn culture and pisciculture has to come from the Agriculture Ministry only, and as far the financial assistance.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, put the question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am coming to it. Earlier the subsidy that has been given to these industries has been slashed now. The hon. Minister wants the food-processing industry to come up, and it is a very good novel plan which the hon. Minister is telling that in every parliamentary constituency, it should be there. My question is: Would you increase the subsidy?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, as I told, the hon. Agriculture Minister is heading the GoM, and we are still in the process of finalising the shape of policy. I can say, under his leadership, we are having this mission to achieve, because agriculture production is also going to be doubled. So, we want that food-processing sector should grow much more faster, and we would like to use the good offices of our hon. Members to plead for the enhancement and restructuring of our proposals, so that we can provide further.

Utilisation of Railway Safety Fund for road safety works

*183. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Safety Fund was created to finance works relating to road safety measures and if so, the reasons for not using the funds for safety purposes;

(b) whether a train mowed a trolley at the unmanned railway crossing near Nagpur recently killing 55 persons; and

(c) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into to bring to book the authorities responsible for not using the Railway Safety Fund for the purpose it was created?

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.